

**Amended Plan of Action  
For  
Drainage to the San Luis Unit  
Central Valley Project**

**February 5, 2004**

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For  
Drainage to the San Luis Unit  
Central Valley Project**

**Plan of Action**

Reclamation is expanding the scope of the San Luis Drainage Feature Reevaluation (SLDFR) to include land retirement among the alternatives for providing drainage service to the San Luis Unit of the Central Valley Project. Reclamation has proceeded according to the Plan Of Action (POA) submitted to the Court on April 18, 2001 and has met all milestone dates included therein, including identification of a proposed drainage service alternative in December, 2002. Reclamation has prepared an internal administrative Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed action and alternatives, and is currently on schedule to complete the Draft Reevaluation/EIS report by June 2004 as identified in the April 18, 2001 document. Land retirement was considered but excluded as a component of the Federal drainage service alternatives currently under consideration because it did not meet the project purpose of providing drainage service. However, as a result of public and stakeholder input, Reclamation has determined it will broaden the scope of analysis to include land retirement. In particular, the San Luis Unit and adjacent districts submitted a plan, the Westside Regional Drainage Plan (WRDP), to the Secretary of Interior in May 2003 that would accomplish drainage service objectives with land retirement as a key component. The WRDP is summarized in Attachment A. Working cooperatively with the affected Districts and other stakeholders, Reclamation will begin formulating and evaluating alternatives that include land retirement. Expanding the scope of alternatives to include land retirement alternative(s) will extend completion of the in-progress Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by an estimated 13 months as further described below.

**Expanded Scope of Feature Reevaluation/Environmental Review**

In December 2002, consistent with the POA schedule, Reclamation issued a Plan Formulation Report (PFR) identifying the In-Valley Alternative as the proposed action to provide drainage service at a present worth Federal cost of \$779 million. In addition to the In-Valley alternative, four other alternatives are included in the PFR, including the No-Action alternative. Reclamation will continue to refine and evaluate all five alternatives described in the PFR for inclusion in the EIS. Additionally, Reclamation will formulate alternative(s) that use land retirement as a method to control drainage need. This will be done by comparing costs, benefits, and impacts for alternatives with different amounts of land retirement.

### **Schedule**

With the revised scope of analysis, the SLDFR is scheduled for completion in July 2006 (see Attachment B). Over the next several months, Reclamation will hold public scoping meetings, formulate additional alternatives, and prepare an addendum to the PFR. The addendum to the PFR will describe the additional alternatives to be evaluated and included in the EIS. The key milestones to complete the SLDFR are as follows:

- Conduct Scoping Process                      March 2004
- Addendum to PFR                                July 2004
- Publish Draft EIS                                May 2005
- Complete Final EIS and ROD                July 2006

### **Short Term Continuing Actions**

In addition to pursuing the plan of action to provide drainage service set out above, Reclamation has continued its partnerships with other State, Federal, and local agencies to pursue development and implementation of drainage management techniques as described in the April, 2001 Plan of Action. Consistent with the WRDP and the interagency San Joaquin Valley Drainage Implementation Program (SJVDIP), immediate or short-term actions are available that will reduce and manage drainage water to sustain agricultural productivity and environmental quality of the Valley while long-term solutions are evaluated and implemented. Reclamation will continue to support implementation of these actions that have already proven to provide drainage benefits, or are likely to provide drainage benefits in the short-term. In particular, Reclamation in partnership with others will seek to implement those actions identified in the WRDP that have been identified to be common among all alternatives being evaluated.

ATTACHMENT A – Summary of Westside Regional Drainage Plan

ATTACHMENT B – Project Schedule

ATTACHMENT A

SUMMARY  
OF  
WESTSIDE REGIONAL DRAINAGE PLAN

# **Westside Regional Drainage Plan**

**May 2003**

**Prepared By:**

**San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority**

**Broadview Water District**

**Panoche Water District**

**Westlands Water District**



# Westside Regional Drainage Plan

## A N O V E R V I E W

### **B a c k g r o u n d :**

**T**he U.S. Bureau of Reclamation recently completed a San Luis Drain Feature Re-Evaluation Plan Formulation Report for the area located in the western San Joaquin Valley. The area consists of Westlands, Broadview, Panoche, Firebaugh, and Pacheco water districts and portions of San Luis Water District and Central California Irrigation District.

Long-established drainage practices for farmers in the north portion of the drainage service area are at immediate risk. Impending discharge standards will cut off vital drainage to the San Joaquin River by 2009. The Westside Regional Drainage Plan (Plan) is developed by the stakeholders and is designed primarily to quick-start identified drainage elements in time to meet standards. The initial projects in the Plan are the first steps needed for implementation of the USBR's San Luis Drain Feature Re-Evaluation Plan Formulation Report.

### **P l a n   E l e m e n t s :**

- The Plan identifies scientifically sound projects, develops an aggressive implementation plan, curtails discharge to the San Joaquin River in accordance with regulatory constraints.
- Accelerates Plan schedule by using existing adopted environmental documentation. The schedule provides for immediate drainage service implementation.
- Is fully supported by the local stakeholders including Westlands, Panoche and Broadview water districts, Central California Irrigation District, Firebaugh Canal Water District, and the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority.
- The local stakeholders are dedicated to working cooperatively with the USBR to achieve immediate implementation.
- Is consistent with the USBR's San Luis Drain Feature Re-Evaluation Plan Formulation Report. The main difference is the accelerated schedule for the provision of drainage.
- A key element is adaptive management combining investigation, construction of proven drainage components, and operational experience to perfect the final drainage strategy.
- The chief components include land retirement, groundwater management, source control, regional re-use, treatment, and salt disposal.

ATTACHMENT B

PROJECT SCHEDULE  
AMENDED PLAN OF ACTION  
FOR  
DRAINAGE TO THE SAN LUIS UNIT  
CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT

